

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

United States of America

v.

Michelle Morton,

Defendant.

16 Cr. 371

Order re: Attorney-Client Privilege Waiver (Informed Consent)

WHEREAS Defendant Michelle Morton has moved to withdraw her guilty plea on the ground of ineffective assistance of counsel; and

WHEREAS the Government, after reviewing the motion papers, has concluded that the testimony of Petitioner's former trial counsel, Gregory Morvillo and Savannah Stevenson ("Counsel"), will be needed in order to allow the Government to respond to the motion; and

WHEREAS the Court, after reviewing the motion papers, is satisfied that the testimony of Counsel is needed in order to allow the Government to respond to the motion; and

WHEREAS by making the motion, the movant has waived the attorney-client privilege as a matter of law; and

WHEREAS the Court is cognizant that, absent court order or informed consent, ethical concerns may inhibit Counsel from disclosing confidential information relating to a prior client even in the absence of a privilege, *see, e.g.*, ABA Standing Comm. on Ethics and Prof. Responsibility Formal Op. 10-456 (July 14, 2010), *Disclosure of Information to Prosecutor When Lawyer's Former Client Brings Ineffective Assistance of Counsel Claim*,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Counsel shall give sworn testimony, in the form of an affidavit, addressing the allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel made by movant and may discuss the same with the Government; and it is further

ORDERED that Michelle Morton execute and return to this court within 60 days from today's date the accompanying "Attorney-Client Privilege Waiver (Informed Consent)" form. If the document is not received by the court within 60 days from today's date, the court will deny the motion to withdraw Morton's guilty plea, on the ground that the movant failed to authorize the disclosure of information needed to permit the Government to respond to the motion.

Dated: New York, New York
May 17, 2019

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

United States of America

v.

Michelle Morton,

Defendant.

16 Cr. 371

Attorney-Client Privilege Waiver (Informed Consent)

To: Michelle Morton

You have made a motion to withdraw your guilty plea on the ground that you received ineffective assistance from your former lawyers, Gregory Morvillo and Savannah Stevenson (referred to in this form as “your former attorneys”). The court has reviewed your papers and determined that it needs to have a sworn testimonial statement from your former attorneys in order to evaluate your motion.

By making this motion, you have waived the attorney-client privilege you had with your former attorneys to the extent relevant to determining your claim. This means that if you wish to press your claim of ineffective assistance, you cannot keep the communications between yourself and your former attorneys a secret—you must allow them to be disclosed to the Government and to the Court pursuant to court order. The court has already issued an Order (copy attached) ordering your former attorneys to give such testimony, in the form of an affidavit, and permitting them to discuss your allegations with the Government. This Informed Consent form is designed to ensure that you fully understand and agree to this.

Specifically, if you wish to proceed with your motion to set aside your conviction on the basis that you received ineffective assistance of counsel, you must sign this statement and return it to the court in the attached envelope (keeping a copy for your records). The form constitutes your authorization to your former attorneys to disclose confidential communications (1) only in response to a court order and (2) only to the extent necessary to shed light on the allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel that are raised by your motion.

You should know that if you sign this authorization, you run the risk that your former attorneys will contradict your statements about their representation of you. However, you should also know that the court will deny your motion if you do not authorize your former attorneys to give an affidavit and otherwise discuss your allegations in response to the Court’s attached Order.

You must return this form, signed by you and notarized, within sixty (60) days from the date of the Court's Order directing your former lawyer to give testimony. If the Court does not receive this form, signed by you and notarized, within that time, the court will automatically deny your motion.

NOTARIZED AUTHORIZATION

I have read the Court's Order dated _____ and this document headed Attorney-Client Privilege Waiver (Informed Consent). I hereby authorize my former attorneys Gregory Morvillo and Savannah Stevenson, Esq., to comply with the Court's Order by giving testimony, in the form ordered by the court, relating to my motion to set aside my conviction on the ground of ineffective assistance of counsel. This authorization allows my former attorney to testify only pursuant to court order, and only to the extent necessary to shed light on the allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel that are raised by my motion.

Dated: _____

Sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____

Notary Public